

## CRASS AEROPLANE LIKE FOUR-MASTER

Ralph Johnstone and Moisant  
Declared Richmond Boy's  
Plan Was Feasible.

### TO CARRY FIVE PASSENGERS

Six Planes and Seven Propellers  
and Boat-Shaped Body on  
New Machine.

The latest aeroplane invented is one that has been evolved from the mind of J. Edward Crass, Jr., twenty-one years old, of 2519 West Grace Street, who will soon put one on the market, with six planes and seven propellers, the supporting surface being 2,400 square feet. A working model has been built, and that the machine will fly has been proved. It will be constructed to carry five passengers besides the navigator. The body is shaped like a boat, with the engines and landing gear and a car for the passengers.

The planes are ranged so that three are in front and three directly behind, each plane being on a level with the one behind and all operating independently. Three of the propellers are in front, one before each plane, two behind, and there is one on each side, making seven in all.

Can Rise Quickly.

The two side propellers are entirely new and patentable. They can be worked in any direction, but are constructed mainly for the lifting power they will afford when rising from the ground. But they can be changed so as to give a forward, a downward or an upward thrust. Though the model is equipped with varying planes, an invention patented by the Wright brothers, Mr. Crass intends to equip the machine with ailerons also, so that the aviator may use either in case of emergency. All the machinery is operated on the universal joint and with one control, though it has a combination of biplanes surrounding a third plane, and, at a distance, it looks much like a four-master ship. The aeroplane will be equipped with three engines, each of 100 horse-power, two will be used together, and the third will be depended on in case of emergency. Though there are many parts, the controlling gear is marked by its extreme simplicity, the gigantic man-made bird being under the control of the navigator by only one lever and one stick, while the other controls having been eliminated.

Centre of Gravity Shifts.

The seven propellers may be used together or separately, so that if one, or even three or four, fail to work or become broken, the others will afford sufficient momentum to carry the machine to any point for a landing, where repairs can be made. With the use of the side propellers, rising from the ground will be comparatively easy, and the man with any other type of machine now on the market, the other propellers can be shut off in air, and the side blades used alone for descent. And in this new type the passengers can move from place to place without affecting the equilibrium of the machine, as is constructed that its centre of gravity will swing with the aeroplane.

The machine must fly. It remains now only to perfect minor details, and as soon as one is built from the model, Mr. Crass will test it in the air, somewhere near Richmond. Plans are now under way for the incorporation of a stock company to build the machine, and several thousand dollars have already been subscribed. Within the next few weeks the model constructed by the inventor will be taken away to model buildings, and other tests will be applied.

Dead Aviators Saw It.

Ralph Johnstone viewed the machine when he was here, and the great aviator who lost his life in demonstrating the new scheme pronounced it entirely feasible. It was also described to John B. Moisant, and that optimistic flyer gave the name "Crass". This encouragement, and with the knowledge that his invention was being taken seriously, else it did, the young inventor went ahead, and there remains now only to raise sufficient money for the construction of one large enough to carry a passenger. Mr. Crass is hopeful. Some of the parts have been ordered, and within a few months he expects to give a practical demonstration of the flying capacity of his invention.

GOING TO WASHINGTON

Richmond Party to Hear Argument in Tobacco Trust Cases To-Day.

William H. White, president of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, George W. Stevens, president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, Judge James Keith, president of the State Supreme Court of Appeals, Judge J. Carter Scott, of the Circuit Court, and other prominent citizens will be present at the hearing of the argument in the tobacco trust cases, which will be held at the Hotel Richmond, to-day.

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## IDEAL SERVICE FOR RICHMOND

Tourist Trains Operated This  
Year on Schedule Which Will  
Help Local Hotels.

### START SOUTHWARD TO-NIGHT

Richmond Sleeper on Coast Line  
and Convenient Arrival Hour  
on Seaboard Limited.

Tourist trains on the Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard Air Line will pass through Richmond on their first trip to Florida to-night. The inauguration of this special service for the winter months will not only add greatly to the railroad facilities in and out of this city, but will bring this year a larger number of tourists, especially in the spring, when the movement begins from Florida to the East. Manager Weisker, of the Jefferson Hotel, who has been keeping in close touch with the situation, said yesterday that already a number of reservations had been made and that some of the most prominent people in the city would be here to-night.

Some time ago at the urgent request of the Chamber of Commerce, the Atlantic Coast Line agreed to operate what is known as the Richmond sleeper between this city and Florida points. The sleeper is dropped off here by the northbound train before daylight, although passengers are permitted to occupy it until a more convenient hour. The Jefferson Hotel people figured that this schedule would add at least 25 per cent. to the tourist trade, while merchants and jobbers declared that it would bring a larger number of buyers to Richmond.

Although the Seaboard Air Line does not operate a local or "stop" train, the schedule of its northbound Florida Limited, which will make its first trip to arrive here at 8:00 A. M. on Thursday, is such that an ideal service is provided for people who desire to stop in this city. The Seaboard Limited will arrive here at 8:00 A. M. on Thursday, and the Seaboard Limited will arrive at the Main Station at 8:10 A. M. on Thursday.

The Atlantic Coast Line's New York and Florida special will arrive here at 8:00 A. M. daily, except Sunday. Northbound, it reaches Byrd Station daily, except Monday, at 7:00 A. M.

### CONTRIBUTE \$30,000

First Baptist Now Has 1,132 Active Members on Church Roll.

Nearly \$30,000 during the past year was contributed to the First Baptist Church, according to a report of the treasurer at the annual meeting held yesterday afternoon. The actual amount was \$27,733.89, and of this \$10,292.07 was added to current expenses and improvements upon the church property. Benevolent work received \$17,441.82.

The membership of the First Baptist has now reached a total of 1,132, one of the largest congregations in the city.

Reports also showed that the various societies of the church during 1932 were active.

A feature of the meeting was the annual letter of the pastor, Rev. Geo. W. McDaniel, D. D., which will be printed for distribution among the members.

### BIG CROWD COMING

Railroad Men to Stop Over Here After Florida Convention.

Local representatives of the Association of Railway Agents of the United States are making preparations for the entertainment of delegates to their annual convention, who will be in this city to spend the day of January 25.

The convention this year will be held in Tampa, Fla., and immediately after, nearly all the members will come to this city in response to an invitation from the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The full program has not yet been arranged, but the features will be a luncheon at the Jefferson Hotel. There also will be an automobile ride to various points of the city.

The delegates will be met by private cars from Florida here, and after spending the day in Richmond, will leave for Washington, where the members will leave for their homes.

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the board of directors of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad will take place at noon to-day. Officers for the ensuing term will be elected, while reports of the work of the past year will be made.

### HENRICO COUNTY COLLEGE PLANS TO SEE BIG FIGHT

Swarm of Candidates Already in Field, and Others May Come Out Later.

Candidates for election to office in Henrico county are now coming forth in a great number. It is expected that for the spring primaries, barely a day passes without an announcement of a candidate. The most active campaign in Henrico's history. Practically every candidate has had opposition. This far there has been no formal announcement of a candidate against Sherin L. H. Kemp, though several names have been informally mentioned in political circles.

County Clerk Samuel P. Waddill will be opposed by Garland P. Taylor and William H. White.

C. W. Throckmorton has announced himself for re-nomination for the office of legislator, but he will have to battle against T. P. Gable and Lewis C. Williams.

Commissioner of Revenue George West is expected to put up a vigorous campaign. He will be opposed by J. A. Leach, C. E. Smith and John W. Smith.

County Treasurer H. C. Hechler will be opposed by S. M. O'Bannon and W. B. Prayner.

Julian Gann, incumbent, and Frank T. Sutton, Jr., are in the race for Commonwealth's Attorney.

So far W. C. Saunders, of Brookland District, is the only member of the Board of Supervisors who has formally announced his candidacy for reelection. It is likely, however, that most of the supervisors will be in the fight.

Medical Purity Talk To-Night.

Dr. Lyman Beecher Sperry will speak to-night on "Human Conditions and Possibilities." In the V. M. C. A. auditorium, corner Art and Seventh Streets. These medical-purity talks are conducted under the auspices of V. M. C. A. and are free to men.

Tomorrow night Dr. Sperry will speak on "Four-Fourths of a Man." The hour for the night talk is 8:30.

## BERNSTEIN HOLDS THEF FOR POLICE

Grabbed Negro Who Was Waiting  
to Break In, While Wife  
Gave Alarm.

### SCUFFLED IN DARKNESS

Squad of Officers Rushed to  
Scene by Signal From Flash  
Light Station.

After a scuffle in the dark, in which James Bernsten, colored, was caught and held early yesterday morning by E. N. Bernsten, of 528 North Tenth Street, until the arrival of a squad of officers responding to an emergency charge of attempted burglary against the negro, and he was locked up in the First Police Station.

It was shortly after 11 o'clock that Mrs. Bernsten, sitting alone in her bedroom, thought she heard a sound of some one making loud noises at her window. She waited and listened intently. Again there was a movement, but as she anxiously peered through fine shutters, she was unable to see the form of a man, though she was sure that there had been a man at the window.

Heard Him Again.

Mr. Bernsten arrived about midnight, returning with his wages. They retired to their bedroom, and, pouring the money out on the table, began counting it. Again there was a movement on the other side of the door, and Mr. Bernsten, quickly opening the door, looked out to see if any one were on the outside. He saw no one, but he found one of the shutters open. Though he was not entirely content, he returned to the bedroom. Some one then stumbled on a collar trap-door, and then Mr. Bernsten was quite sure that he was being watched from the outside, and that some one was laying plans to break into his house.

He ran out of the front door, and, through an alley separating his house from the one next door, ran into his backyard, where he saw a man peering through his window. He called to the negro to halt. Either the latter did not hear the cry or he was too startled to move.

But Mr. Bernsten was on him in a moment, holding him in such fashion that the negro was powerless to move his arms without being choked by Mr. Bernsten's left elbow, which was pressed tightly against his throat. Banks was dragged into the house and into the hall, where with a quick twist of his hands, Mr. Bernsten threw him face downwards, with his thumbs pressed into the negro's throat, so that he could neither speak nor move. Then Mr. Bernsten summoned help through the telephone.

The flashlight signal at Seventh and Broad Streets was put into action, and in a few minutes Sergeant Sherry and Policemen Spur, Lear, Howell and Johnson were on the scene. Mr. Bernsten was relieved of his captive, and the negro was seen in a cell. He gave various addresses and excuses, none of which was, however, satisfactory.

### SENT MONEY BACK

Postmasters Thereby Reminded That They Didn't Observe Rules.

Quarterly remittances from postoffices throughout the State to Richmond for the entertainment of delegates to their annual convention, who will be in this city to spend the day of January 25, were not made in many instances. The postmaster at Albemarle, Va., was reminded that he had failed to make the payment. The postmaster at Albemarle, Va., was reminded that he had failed to make the payment.

Many of the third and fourth-class offices, tucked away in various parts of the State, had not sent less than \$10. The postmaster at Albemarle, Va., was reminded that he had failed to make the payment.

In all such cases the money was returned. There were nearly 300 such cases.

Some of the big mailbags envelopes contained less than 15 cents.

This oversight has caused considerable trouble to the local office in the past. Postmaster Allen has never before ordered the small sums returned, but did it in order to bring the rule on the subject vividly before the postmasters, most of whose business is occupied in the management of country stores.

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## TO SELECT DESIGN FOR BATTLE ABBEY

Jury of Award Will Meet Here  
To-Day to Begin Work of  
Finding the Best.

### AUTHOR'S NAME NOT KNOWN

Contest Will Be Decided With-  
out Regard to Reputation  
of Architect.

Selection of a design for the Confederate Memorial Institute, or "Battle Abbey," which is soon to be erected in Richmond, to form a perpetual monument to the men and the deeds of the Southern Confederacy, will be begun to-day by the jury of award, Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellyson, president of the Confederate Memorial Association; James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the Treasury Department, in Washington, and William Churchill Noland, of Richmond, form the jury. Mr. Taylor, who supervises the erection of all public buildings for the government, was appointed by the president of the American Institute of Architects to be a member of the committee. Mr. Noland is known as the professional adviser for the Battle Abbey committee.

The sixty-eight designs submitted have been carefully marked by Mayor D. C. Richardson with distinguishing numbers, which correspond to numbers on the envelopes, containing the names and addresses of the competing architects. These envelopes will remain in the Mayor's possession, until the jury has made its selection.

No member of the jury of award will know the author of any design to be examined. The plans will be judged on their merits, and five will be chosen, for first, second, third, fourth and fifth places.

The length of time required by the jury for the examination and award is problematical, as the jury will be busy with other matters. It may, of course, happen that some plans so nearly meet the approval of the jury that a choice will be easy and will be reached within a short time.

As a decision has been reached a meeting will be called of the executive committee of the Confederate Memorial Association, which will receive and consider the report of the jury. With this committee rests the final decision, the jury being an advisory body only. The committee consists of Mr. Ellyson, Colonel Robert White, chairman of the committee; Colonel Thomas S. Kenan, Judge George L. Christian and J. M. Hickey.

The winner of the first prize will be the architect of the building, securing the regular professional fees. A prize of \$10 will be given to the plan which stands second in the contest, and one of \$200 to each of the next three.

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